

No. 349.—No. 18,701.

# BRYAN IS FOR TAFT AT GRIDIRON FEAST

But at Height of the Rejoicing the Bogus "Peerless Leader" Is Unmasked.

## GOOSE AS PEACE'S DOVE CARRIES CHEERING NEWS

Roosevelt Willing to Give Arms of Barnes to Cause.

## WILEY BOOM IS LAUNCHED

Primary for Insurgents Only Places Pure Food Man in Running. Faust, With Variations, a Feature of Evening.



LOUIS GARTHE, Vice President of the Gridiron Club.

To hold a dining mirror up to great men and show them there reflected in travestied but not unkindly fashion; to paraphrase politics, if you please, and to speed many a winged shaft of wit into the bull's-eye of comment on public affairs is within the province of a Gridiron Club's dinner. This was exemplified in the first dinner of the season given by the club last night at the New Willard, to the apparent amusement of a company of distinguished guests.

The dinner, to the number of some 250, guests and hosts, filled into the great banquet hall, the President of the United States escorted by the vice president of the club, Louis Garthe, leading the way, while the Marine Band played an appropriate march. As they stood behind their chairs one could have observed among them men prominent in every noted walk of life.

### Song of Good Cheer.

The room in darkness, they were greeted with a song of good cheer, followed by a brief and hearty welcome from Vice President Garthe, upon whom devolved that pleasure in the absence of President Coolidge, who is presently beyond the seas. Then the lights flashed up and revealed a scene of rare beauty in the embellishment of floral decoration and flashing glass and silver.

The dinner started off with a swing, for much must be done within four hours; speeches by the guests that are never reported and skits by way of entertainment by the hosts. In this gathering of newspaper men who live by the pen it is ordained that guests may freely wield oratorical weapons without danger of committing har-kari.

One and only one writ of admonition must be held by a candidate to speak as if ideas were indeed present. It seemed last night that Attorney General Wickham was the most popular man present last night. He was most in demand. Hardly had the last oyster disappeared before a student-voted "butte" named Mr. Wickham. First, it was a card from J. Pierpont Morgan, president of the Gridiron Club, who was anxious for a word with the Attorney General. Later, J. Ogden Armour of the coal trust, President Baer of the hard coal trust, Mr. Morris of the barometer trust, Winslow of the indicted shoe machinery trust, Weyerhaeuser of the lumber trust and others were introduced and were announced as being on the anxious bench.

### Vote at Primary.

It fell out that a presidential primary was to be held on the 15th of January, and each diner found at his plate a ballot, printed thus:

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY.**  
For Insurgent Nominees Solely.  
Mark lively, please, polls close at 8:15 o'clock.  
Candidates:  
Immediateists, Jonathan Bourne, Jr., Editor Daily League Bulletin.  
Exploisvists, Robert M. La Follette, Editor Progressive News.  
Put an X in the square opposite your party. If you scratch, bear in mind that the name is spelled "C-u-m-m-i-n-i-s-m," a Progressivist.  
Tally clerks will collect votes promptly on time.

After the ballots were gathered in and counted some confusion was caused by two men, resembling Bourne and La Follette, rushing into the room in a state of great indignation. They both declared they had been "bumped," and upon investigation their complaint seemed to be well founded. The returns showed that the utmost independence had been exercised in balloting, with some "ringers" appearing among the candidates. James R. Garfield received 4 votes, Senator Cummins 1, Senator Clegg 1, Senator Edgewood 1, La Follette 10, Bourne 25 and "Doc" Wiley 161. Notwithstanding the protests of bogus La Follette and Bourne, "Doc" Wiley was declared the choice of the primary.

### Opera "Faust" Rendered.

The excellent vocal material available in the club's list of members permitted

# PROVIDES FOR PRICE

Bill Concerns Recording Sales of District Real Estate.

## AMOUNT MUST BE GIVEN

Real Consideration, Not Fictitious, According to Measure.

## WILL BE HELD TO ASSESSOR

Official Then Has Opinion of Both Buyer and Seller in Argument Advanced.

A bill that is liable to cause considerable commotion in local real estate circles was introduced in the House yesterday by Chairman Johnson of the District committee. It requires, in brief, that in all deeds, mortgages and deeds of trust recorded in the District of Columbia the "real consideration" must be stated. The measure is intended to aid the board of assessors of the District in their work of placing accurate and proper valuations upon improved and unimproved property.

The following explanation of the bill was given out upon its introduction by Representative Henry George, a member of the House District committee: "Too frequently in the District the real consideration is not recited in deeds of conveyance. Often a consideration of only \$1 is given as the price paid for a parcel of ground, when the newspapers state that \$100,000 or \$200,000 was paid instead of the traditional 'one dollar.'"

### Help to the Assessor.

"If the real consideration is set out in the conveyance, then the assessor has the opinion of both buyer and seller as to what the property is worth. We have here entirely too many instances where property is assessed for only a very small per cent of the reported consideration paid for the property. A disclosure of the real consideration will greatly aid the assessor in his official work."

Following is the text of the measure: "Hereafter it shall be the duty of any officer, or any of his deputies or clerks, whose duty it is or may hereafter become to put record any deed of conveyance for any real estate in the District of Columbia, or to put to record any mortgage or deed of trust upon any real estate in said District, unless said deed of conveyance, mortgage or deed of trust is accompanied by a statement, subscribed and sworn to before some one authorized to administer an oath, by the grantor in deeds of conveyance, or by the mortgagee in mortgages or deeds of trust, to the effect that the consideration, as set out in the said deed of conveyance, mortgage, deed of trust or other like recordable paper, is the entire and real consideration actually passed or to be passed."

### Provision for Liens.

"Neither shall any consideration greater than that fully expressed in the conveyance, mortgage or deed of trust, be or pass as a lien upon the property described in the said paper."

"Neither shall any consideration for the execution of any such aforesaid paper, which is greater than the consideration mentioned therein, be collectible in any court of law."

"Any person who shall swear falsely in making the statement herein provided for shall be deemed guilty of perjury and subject to all the penalties imposed by law for that offense."

"Any recording officer who shall violate the provisions of this act shall, upon conviction, be removed from office, and, in addition thereto, pay a fine of \$100."

# DEFUNCT TRUST HEAD ENDS LIFE WITH GUN

Peter Boyd, President of Tradesmen Trust Company, Shoots Self.

PHILADELPHIA, December 9.—Peter Boyd, a well known member of the Philadelphia bar and president of the Tradesmen Trust Company of this city, died last night at his home, after a brief illness. He was about 25 years of age and had been in the city about two months ago, shot and killed himself today in his law offices on the thirteenth floor of an office building.

His body was found by a scrub woman who entered the offices to clean them last night. There was a bullet wound in his head and near the body was found a revolver.

### Worry Over Failure.

Worry and anxiety occasioned by the failure of the trust company is believed to have mentally distressed Mr. Boyd. After the closing of the concern he was much broken physically. The trust company closed its doors September 18. In a statement to the depositors Mr. Boyd said that inability to promptly realize on certain outstanding loans impaired the bank's financial condition and promised to pay depositors dollar for dollar.

Mr. Boyd was fifty-seven years old. He had a lucrative practice in the civil courts and in the management of estates. He was prominent in city affairs, and was a popular speaker on the stump in the interests of the republic. In 1909 he was married to Mrs. Isabel Warner Bartholomew, formerly of Hartford, Conn., and New York.

### BLAME FOR AUSTIN DISASTER.

Trial Postponed of Those Charged With Involuntary Manslaughter.

COUDERSPORT, Pa., December 9.—George C. Bayless of Binghamton, N. Y., president of the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company of Austin, Pa.; Frederick N. Hamlin, superintendent, and Michael C. Bailey, an employee, charged with involuntary manslaughter, in connection with the deaths of three score persons September 26, when the paper company's dam burst, will not be tried at the December term of court. This became known today when the cases were continued until the March term.

# KEEPS MOVE SECRET

Details of Russia's Advance on Persia Not Made Known.

## ENGLAND'S DELICATE PLACE

Fears to Take Hand Because of Possible War With Germany.

## SHUSTER HELD RESPONSIBLE

Believe He Is Efficient and Has Good Intentions, But Not Considered Diplomatic.

LONDON, December 9.—Details as to the advance of the Russian troops in Persia have been kept for several days completely in the dark. How large a force has been dispatched by the Russian government and particulars as to its movements are unknown in London, but the public generally feel that the end will be that the establishment of a Russian protectorate over the best parts of Persia, including two northern capitals, Tabriz and Teheran.

Newspapers and politicians generally regard it as unlikely that Russia, once entrenched in Teheran, will ever withdraw.

### Blow to British Prestige.

Possible damage to British commercial interests is absorbing much attention, but the blow to British prestige among orientals causes most anxiety.

The Outlook says: "We are face to face with one of the gravest crises in the history of British policy in Asia."

The Nation says: "It means the worst blow which our prestige could suffer in the east. We appear as the weak partner, who dares not try to check his powerful and unscrupulous associate."

### Blame Placed on Shuster.

W. Morgan Shuster, the American treasurer general in Persia, whose dismissal was demanded by Russia, is held responsible for bringing Persia into trouble to a crisis. He has been one of the most discussed men in England during the last week. All officials as well as the newspapers credit him with efficiency and good intentions, but accuse him of lacking diplomatic tact.

The British cabinet is trying to induce Russia to accept the dismissal of Shuster, which overshadows all other considerations. England needs Russia's support in case of a war with Germany, and therefore cannot afford to take a stand against her.

### DISSOLVING TOBACCO TRUST.

Carrying Out the Plan Accepted by the Government.

RICHMOND, Va., December 9.—Fifteen directors of the American Tobacco Company, led by R. B. Dula of New York, gathered here today to dissolve the trust. The plan of dissolution accepted by the federal government. The American division of the trust, taken over by the R. A. Tatten and P. H. Mayo branches, Liggett & Myers, take the Allen & Ginter branch, and P. Lorillard Company takes the Federal Cigar Company.

It is understood throughout the various plant departments that there will be no changes in present working conditions.

### MILLION FOR PICTURES.

P. A. B. Widener Said to Have Paid That Amount for Rembrandt's.

NEW YORK, December 9.—P. A. B. Widener of Philadelphia has paid \$1,000,000 for the picture of "The Mill" for \$500,000 last spring, according to information just received by the American Art News from its London correspondent, has acquired three great Rembrandts for \$1,000,000. These three paintings, said to be of exceptional quality and typical examples of the great Dutch master, are "Apostle Peter at a Writing Desk," "Portrait of a Man" and a scriptural piece.

Mr. Widener has been in several large picture sales, but this is the largest purchase yet credited to the art collector, and is the most important art transaction recorded this year.

### SCHEME TO CHECK WILSON.

Plans of New Jersey Republicans to Pass Vetoed Bills.

TRENTON, N. J., December 9.—The steering committee of the republican senators and assemblymen met in joint conference at the statehouse today to discuss the party program for the coming session of the legislature.

In a general way it was decided to carry out the pledges that were embodied in the republican state platform during the fall campaign.

It was decided to also recommend to the senate and house caucuses that the plan of adjournment by following, which would prevent the governor from acting upon a large batch of bills after the legislature had adjourned for the year.

In accordance with this, after a session of the usual length, an adjournment would be had for two or three weeks, and then the two houses will reconvene and act upon any bills the governor in the meantime may have vetoed.

### TAXES AMOUNT TO MILLION.

Right to Collect From Naval Stores Corporations, Says Court.

# FAILING TO GET JOB, ENDS HIS OWN LIFE

C. O. North Disappointed When Congressman Does Not Employ Him.

## CONTRACTOR GOES THROUGH ALL TESTS, BUT ATTORNEYS SEEM AFRAID

Special Dispatch to The Star. PORTLAND, Me., December 9.—Rev. Frank W. Sanford, skipper of the Holy Ghost and U.S. yacht coronet, was found guilty this afternoon on an indictment charging manslaughter in connection with the death of six members of the sect during the vessel's remarkable voyage.

The coronet put into Portland in October of this year, after having drifted aimlessly about since June, 1910, when Sanford and his converts started out to establish Holy Ghost stations all over the world.

The jury returned a verdict in ten minutes today, apparently being little affected by Sanford's remarkable plea during the vessel's remarkable voyage.

Sanford said God was always with the coronet until members of the flock died. They were chastised. The jury on board, he said, was an act of God.

"I believe heaven is watching this scene now," said Sanford. "I am talking before a God who listens and knows when I commit perjury and will deal with me on high."

He declared that a Springfield man had approached him and attempted to talk to him concerning his opinions in the case. His investigation was started immediately, but the man was not located. Veale said that he repulsed the man, and was unable to give an accurate description of him.

"A man came up to me and asked me if I had been summoned as a juror," said the spokesman. "I told him that I had been, and he asked me whether I had an opinion. I told him to get away, as I could not talk about the case. I didn't pay much attention to him and didn't know him. He said he was from Springfield."

Judge Carpenter questioned Veale sharply, but was unable to ascertain whether the man intended to tamper with the jury.

"May Not Be Jury Tampering." "It looked a little queer, but may have been merely a passing incident," said District Attorney Wilkerson.

"Veale could not describe the man, so the little chance of finding him. However, the jury will be carefully guarded to prevent a repetition of the occurrence."

When the session closed at noon today the defense had practically selected eleven jurors after putting them over the difficult educational hurdles. Attorneys for the packers continued to apply psychic tests to the jurors to determine their accuracy of observation and the analytical powers of their minds.

Of the eleven men apparently satisfactory to the defense six are of the original twelve tendered by the government and are certain of being accepted.

### Defense in First Challenge.

The defense used its first peremptory challenge today to the bid of John D. Brown, a contractor, tendered by the government. Brown went through all the tests attorneys Payne and Miller could devise, but may seem afraid of him.

Alton Kelley, one of the jurors who has puzzled the court and been the source of considerable perplexity to the indicted packers because of his brilliantly evolved replies to questions, was peremptorily challenged by the defense after he refused to state whether or not he had a fixed opinion.

The name of Senator Kenyon, who will act as advisory counsel for the government, was brought into the case when Edward B. Sikes, a land expert for the Illinois Central railroad, said that he knew the senator, as well as members of the counsel for each side. He was left in the box tonight.

J. Ogden Armour and Edward Tilden led a delegation of seven of the original twelve jurors to the courtroom just as the session opened. The four days of the trial have begun to wear on the packers, and all took the proceedings more seriously than on previous days.

# TAMPERS WITH JURY VERDICT OF GUILTY

Venireman in Beef Packers' Case "Spoken To."

## MAKES REPORT TO JUDGE

First Suspicion of Attempt to Influence Decision.

## DEFENSE MAKES CHALLENGE

Contractor Goes Through All Tests, But Attorneys Seem Afraid of Him.

Special Dispatch to The Star. CHICAGO, December 9.—The first suspicion of an attempt to tamper with the jury which is to try the ten Chicago beef packers made its appearance today when M. Veale, a venireman from Malta, Ill., told the court that he had been "spoken to" in the corridors of the Federal building.

Veale created a sensation when he declared that a Springfield man had approached him and attempted to talk to him concerning his opinions in the case. His investigation was started immediately, but the man was not located. Veale said that he repulsed the man, and was unable to give an accurate description of him.

"A man came up to me and asked me if I had been summoned as a juror," said the spokesman. "I told him that I had been, and he asked me whether I had an opinion. I told him to get away, as I could not talk about the case. I didn't pay much attention to him and didn't know him. He said he was from Springfield."

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# RUSSIA IS MORE AMIABLE

Feeling in St. Petersburg Is That Passport Controversy Will Be Adjusted.

## Only 12 Days Left for Christmas Shopping.

Special Telegram to The Star. ST. PETERSBURG, December 9.—Although the negotiations are not yet near a satisfactory conclusion, President Taft's message to Congress, together with the efforts of Ambassador Guld, has had the effect of bringing Russia to a more amiable attitude toward the passport question, and it is believed here in diplomatic circles that the controversy will be settled in such manner as to preclude the necessity of the United States abrogating the treaty of 1822.

The Russian government, in the negotiations now in progress, has emphasized its desire not to enforce a total exclusion of the Jews and to investigate all legitimate complaints of hardship imposed by the existing laws.

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# OIL KING NOT COMING

Declines Invitation to Appear Before Stanley Committee.

## DECLINES MERRITTS' STORY

Declares Their Charges Are False and Have Been Retracted.

## DEEMS REPLY UNNECESSARY

Rev. E. T. Gates Takes Similar Ground and Lays Stress on the Retraction.

NEW YORK, December 9.—John D. Rockefeller and the Rev. Frederick T. Gates formally declined today the invitation of Chairman Stanley of the congressional investigating committee to appear before the committee if they cared to make a statement concerning the testimony recently given by Leonidas and Alfred Merritt. Mr. Rockefeller's letter, dated at Pocantico Hills, December 9, and addressed to Chairman Stanley, reads:

"Dear Sir: The narration of Leonidas and Alfred Merritt before your committee was in substance the repetition of statements made by them in a controversy closed fifteen years ago. The statements are false. They were so declared by me at the time in sworn testimony and upon cross-examination. Before the receipt of your invitation I had repeated my denial in a statement generally published in the press. Their own signed retraction is before you."

"I therefore deem it unnecessary to myself at the opportunity now offered to appear before your committee. Yours truly, JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER."

### Gates Also Cites Retraction.

Mr. Gates' letter is dated from 23 Broadway, New York, December 9, and is as follows:

"Sir: I have received your letter, saying that if I care to do so I may appear before your committee. I have signed a retraction of the whole thing. They acknowledge that retraction."

"By those who believe in me, no denial before your committee is needed. By those who believe in the Merritts no testimony from me is needed to substantiate the Merritts' own acknowledged retraction."

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